



Title I News

February 2004

- Title I Spring Meetings
- Title I Aide/Paraprofessional Survey
- Teacher Quality Update
- Math Month – April 2004
- Positive Behavior Support Initiative
- Reading First Update
- Director's Report
- North Dakota State Assessment Update
- Program Improvement Workshop
- Cool Websites for Kids
- Title I Unit Staff
- Upcoming Events

Title I Spring Meetings

The State Title I office has scheduled two spring meetings to update school personnel on pertinent Title I issues. These meetings will replace the Title I regional workshops held previously. The meetings have been scheduled for:

- ◆ May 3, 2004 – Fargo, ND – Ramada Plaza Suites
- ◆ May 6, 2004 – Mandan, ND – Best Western Seven Seas Inn

It is imperative that Title I personnel attend one of these meetings to receive the latest information pertaining to Title I. Please mark your calendars for this important meeting. An agenda and registration information will be forthcoming. This information will also be posted on the Title I Upcoming Events website at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/events.shtm.

Title I Aide/Paraprofessional Survey

In February 2004, a memo from the State Title I office containing a paraprofessional survey was sent to all Title I personnel. The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction, upon directive from the USDE, agreed to survey all schools in North Dakota to gather data as to the number of aides/paraprofessionals who presently meet the highly qualified requirements of the *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) Act and how many will meet the requirements each year thereafter until all are highly qualified by 2006.

The Department of Public Instruction must report the results to the USDE by March 2004. It is extremely important that Title I personnel watch for this survey and assist Title I authorized representatives in gathering and reporting this information for your school. A copy of the survey must be submitted from every Title I school in North Dakota, even if you **do not** employ any aides/paraprofessionals. There is a place on the survey to note this information.

The survey must be completed and returned to the Title I office by February 26, 2004. Please mail or fax the survey back to the Title I office using the address or fax number provided on the cover of the survey.

If you have any questions regarding this process, please contact Nita Wirtz at nwirtz@state.nd.us or call (701) 328-1876.

Teacher Quality Update

■ Budget Revision for Teacher Quality Set Aside Funds

Just a reminder, if you are going to spend some or all of your Title I set aside funds to address the teacher quality provision, you must submit the Budget Revision for 5% Set Aside Funding (SFN 53674) to access these funds. This form can be found online at www.dpi.state.nd.us/forms/sfn53674.pdf.

If you do not need the set-aside funds to address teacher quality, you can reallocate them back into your Title I program and use the funds for any allowable Title I activity. However, you must still submit the Budget Revision for 5% Set-Aside Funding (SFN 53674) to reallocate these funds.

Teacher Quality Update – continued on page 2

Teacher Quality Update – continued

■ **Teacher Assistance Corps**

The U.S. Department of Education has established a new initiative to assist states in meeting the highly qualified provision in the *No Child Left Behind* Act called “Teacher Assistance Corps.” This outreach effort consists of a team of education experts, researchers, and practitioners who will provide voluntary support to states as they carry out the highly qualified staff provision.

The “Teacher Assistance Corps” will travel to states and perform on-site reviews tailored to the needs and concerns of individual states. The teams will offer guidance and feedback on state efforts, address specific state challenges, and provide useful information from other states about promising practices in the field.

A “Teacher Assistance Corps” team will travel to North Dakota to meet with educators on February 11, 2004. The visit is a follow-up request from Undersecretary Hickok when he visited North Dakota in November 2003. State officials had asked the Undersecretary if our state plan that was submitted in September 2003 was going to officially be approved. The plan contained our definition of highly qualified for North Dakota. The Undersecretary responded that the U.S. Department of Education would not be approving or disapproving state definitions of highly qualified. He recommended that the “Teacher Assistance Corps” visit North Dakota to provide guidance on the policies that our state has put together.

The “Teacher Assistance Corps” will be meeting with the ESPB, DPI, and other educational leaders during their visit. We will provide a summary of the meeting along with their comments and recommendations in our March issue of *Title I News*.

■ **Title I Certification at the Middle School/Junior High Level**

A Title I teacher who has obtained the middle school endorsement and holds a reading and/or math credential is **only** considered highly qualified to teach **Title I** to grades five through eight in a middle school/junior high setting.

Listed below are the requirements for a Title I teacher to be able to teach Title I in a middle school/junior high setting.

- ◆ **Reading Credential 5-8:** This credential is issued to Title I teachers who have a major in middle school education, or a major in elementary education with an endorsement in middle school or, a secondary major or major equivalency in English, social studies, or science with an endorsement in middle school, a valid North Dakota educator’s professional license, and the required coursework. These Title I teachers will work directly or indirectly with those students in grades five through eight in a middle school/junior high setting who have failed to benefit from regular classroom instruction in reading.
- ◆ **Math Credential 5-8:** This credential is issued to Title I teachers who have a major in middle school education, or a major in elementary education with an endorsement in middle school, or a secondary major or major equivalency in mathematics with an endorsement in middle school, a valid North Dakota educator’s professional license, and the required coursework. These Title I teachers will work directly or indirectly with those students in grades five through eight in a middle school/junior high setting who have failed to benefit from regular classroom instruction in math.

Please note that although you are qualified to teach Title I in a middle school/junior high setting by meeting the requirements listed above, you may not be qualified to teach regular education in a middle school/junior high setting. The requirements for being highly qualified for regular education middle school/junior high vary depending on whether you are a new or veteran teacher.

If you have questions about the requirements to teach regular education at a middle school/junior high level, please contact Janet Welk at jwelk@state.nd.us or at (701) 328-2264 or refer to pages 2 and 3 of the Education Standards and Practices Board Toolkit which can be found online at www.state.nd.us/espb.

If you have questions about the requirements to teach Title I at a middle school/junior high setting, please contact Sandy Peterson at smpeterson@state.nd.us or at (701) 328-2170.

Math Month – April 2004

April is fast approaching and that means so is our first annual Math Month. This year's Math Month theme is *Mathematics for All*. It is expected that the packets will be mailed the end of February and addressed generically to each school district in North Dakota. In the large school districts, all elementary and junior high buildings will receive a packet. The Math Month packet envelope will have a red **MATH MONTH** stamp on the front. Be sure to be on the lookout for this packet! You won't want to miss it.

Positive Behavior Support Initiative

A broad based collaborative effort of state level agencies has established the North Dakota Positive Behavior Support (PBS) initiative. PBS is a systems approach to enhancing the capacity of schools to educate all students, especially students with challenging social behaviors, by (a) establishing clearly defined outcomes that relate to academic and social behavior, (b) systems that support staff efforts, (c) practices that support student success, and (d) data utilization that guides decision making. The collaborative effort includes, but is not limited to, the following state level organizations: North Dakota Department of Public Instruction, North Dakota Education Association, North Dakota School Boards Association, Division of Juvenile Services, Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

On January 27, 2004, Dr. George Sugai, University of Oregon, provided an overview of the PBS initiative to a large number of school administrators and special education directors. The primary purpose of this workshop was to provide in-depth program clarity for schools interested in becoming PBS demonstration sites during the 2004-2005 school year. To become a demonstration site, each local school building must identify a local leadership team comprised of four to six team members. The make-up of the local leadership team should typically reflect memberships from the following positions: general and special education teachers, principals, guidance counselors, behavior and learning specialists, child advocates, social workers, and parents. Schools that have identified behavior as an initiative will further benefit by receiving training that will systemically increase their potential for success.

If you have further questions about the PBS initiative, please feel free to contact Guy McDonald at (701) 328-2536 or dgmcDonald@state.nd.us. You may also contact Ann Ellefson at (701) 328-2292 or aellefson@state.nd.us.

Reading First Update

The Reading First office is currently planning for the 2004 North Dakota Reading Academies. Teachers and administrators working in a Reading First school building are mandated to attend the North Dakota Reading Academies. This includes K-3 classroom teachers, Title I teachers, administrators, and other professional staff working with students in K-3, and all K-12 special education staff within the Reading First school building.

The North Dakota Reading Academies are four-day professional development trainings that can help school districts meet the challenges of the *No Child Left Behind* Act. The academies are built on scientifically-based reading research that includes explicit and systematic instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. They also highlight grouping, monitoring student progress to inform instruction, and provide interventions for struggling readers.

All the academies will be held in Bismarck, North Dakota. Dates for the academies are:

- ♦ June 21-24, 2004 North Dakota Reading Academies for K and 1st Grade
- ♦ July 19-22, 2004 North Dakota Reading Academies for 2nd and 3rd Grade

Because of the limited space in each of the academies, only staff from Reading First schools will be allowed to register for these academies. However, in the future, the Reading First office plans to open these academies to other teachers around the state in non-Reading First schools. Registration forms will be available sometime in April.

Director's Report

As I write this article, I'm busy preparing to go to the National Title I Convention in New Orleans, LA. We have state directors' meetings all day on February 9 and 10, and I usually gain a lot of valuable information. I am hoping to receive our estimated State Title I allocation for the 2004-2005 school year at the conference.

We would like to get estimated amounts out to school districts as soon as possible. Hopefully, we will also receive updates on key NCLB issues, such as the highly qualified provision, the new Title I regulations for the alternate AYP requirements, etc. I will provide updated information on any materials that I receive in New Orleans in our March issue of *Title I News*.

I strongly encourage all Title I personnel to make every effort to attend the spring meetings on May 3 or May 6, 2004. Historically, the State Title I office has mailed all Title I personnel a May packet of information including registration forms for the Summer Institutes, the final financial report and Title I personnel report, as well as a variety of additional information. Instead of being mailed, these packets will be distributed at the spring workshops. We will provide an update on NCLB issues, review Title I regulations, and share new resources at the workshops as well. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend one of the two workshops!

North Dakota State Assessment Update

- On January 15, 2004, the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction announced its intent to contract with CTB/McGraw-Hill, LLC, for the development and implementation of the North Dakota State Assessment for up to a five-year contract period.
- North Dakota will be moving to a fall testing cycle for the 2004-2005 school year. The Department anticipates implementing grades 3-8 testing and switching to grade 11 testing for the high school span starting with the 2004-2005 school year.

For the 2004-2005 school year, all students in grade 3-8 and 11 will be tested, however, the AYP reports for the 2004-2005 school year will only reflect the testing results from grades 4, 8, and 11. The Adequate Yearly Progress reports will not reflect the grade 3-8 testing until the 2005-2006 school year.

- The Department is in the process of developing a state-level advisory committee. This committee will advise the State Superintendent on the development and review of all State NCLB accountability policies and submit recommendations to the State Superintendent on North Dakota's implementation of NCLB.
- In December 2003, the U.S. Department of Education issued final regulations on the alternate achievement standards and alternate assessments for students with significant cognitive disabilities. These final regulations supercede any previously issued regulations. These federal regulations, effective in December 2003, now allow out-of-level testing for students with disabilities.

There is need for more specific guidance regarding how these regulations are to be implemented at the state and local level. The Department has determined that the perspectives of local educators and administrators are needed to help us thoroughly identify all issues related to these topics, as well as consequences (intended and otherwise) of various policies and procedures that could be in place. Therefore, the Department of Public Instruction has recently created an Alternate and Out-of-Level Testing Committee. This committee will aid the Department in preparing policies and crafting guidance regarding the assessment of students with disabilities that can be uniformly applied by school districts.

The committee met for the first time on Thursday, February 5, 2004. We will provide updated information as the committee makes recommendations to the State Superintendent regarding policies for the administration of out-of-level testing within the state of North Dakota.

A new link has been created on the Title I website, under the NCLB guidance, to share information regarding these final regulations. Information on the website includes: summary of key provisions, federal register, and questions and answers. To access this information, log on to www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/targeted/general/reauthoriz/assessment.shtm.

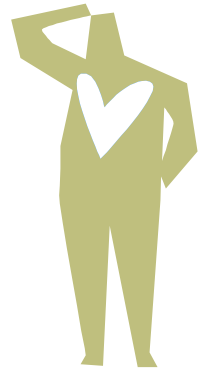
Program Improvement Workshop

The annual workshop for program improvement schools has been set for Monday, April 19, 2004. This workshop is required for schools that have been identified as not making adequate yearly progress for two or more consecutive years (i.e., schools identified for Program Improvement).

This workshop is also required for schools that did not make AYP on the AYP report issued in September 2003 (only one year of failing to make progress) even though the school may not officially be identified as program improvement school (two years of failing to make progress). At this time it is anticipated that the AYP reports for the 2003-2004 school year will not be released until September 2004. Since September will be too late in the school year to provide those schools with the information they will need as a program improvement school, any school that did not make AYP on the 2002-2003 report must attend the April 19, 2004 workshop, in anticipation of the fact that the 2003-2004 AYP report may identify the school as not making AYP for a second consecutive year. The workshop will provide important requirements and guidelines necessary to schools that are identified for program improvement. Topics covered will include detailed information on implementing the following provisions:

- ♦ School choice
- ♦ Supplemental services
- ♦ Corrective action
- ♦ Professional development
- ♦ Required reporting procedures
- ♦ Informing parents and community regarding AYP status

Although program improvement schools and schools who did not make AYP on the 2003 AYP report are required to attend, anyone is welcome to attend the workshop. A registration form and more information will be sent to all schools at a later date.



Cool Websites for Kids

- ♥ **Amazing Adventures** - www.amazingadventure.com
- ♥ **Just 4 Kids** - www.kidsden.org
- ♥ **Virtual Smithsonian** - <http://2k.si.edu>
- ♥ **Barking Spiders** - www.barkingspiderspoetry.com
- ♥ **Knowble.com** - www.knowble.com
- ♥ **Seussville** - www.seussville.com
- ♥ **Lego** - www.lego.com/eng
- ♥ **Sports Illustrated for Kids** - www.sikids.com
- ♥ **Harry Potter** - www.scholastic.com/harrypotter/home.asp



Title I Unit Staff

Laurie Matzke

Director
E-mail: lmatzke@state.nd.us
Phone: (701) 328-2284

Gail Burkett

Asst. Director
Reading First Program
E-mail: gburkett@state.nd.us
Phone: (701) 328-2285

Tanya Lunde-Neumiller

Asst. Director
Schoolwide Program
E-mail: tlunde@state.nd.us
Phone: (701) 328-4646

Nita Wirtz

Program Administrator
Neglected & Delinquent,
CSR/D, 21st Century Programs
E-mail: nwirtz@state.nd.us
Phone: (701) 328-1876

Ann Ellefson

Program Administrator
Even Start, Homeless Programs
E-mail: aellefson@state.nd.us
Phone: (701) 328-2292

Sandy Peterson

Program Administrator
Migrant Education,
Math and Reading Credentials
E-mail: smpeterson@state.nd.us
Phone: (701) 328-2170

Mary Neigum

Fiscal Officer
E-mail: mneigum@state.nd.us
Phone: (701) 328-2281

Missy Schiller

Administrative Assistant
E-mail: mschiller@state.nd.us
Phone: (701) 328-2254

Patty Carmichael

Administrative Assistant
E-mail: pcarmichael@state.nd.us
Phone: (701) 328-3264

Mary Ann Mousel

Administrative Secretary
E-mail: mmousel@state.nd.us
Phone: (701) 328-2282

Office Fax: (701) 328-4770
Toll Free: (888) 605-1951



Upcoming Events

National Title I Conference

♥ February 7-10, 2004 New Orleans, LA
For more information, please visit www.aplusevents.com/T04/index.html.

Title I Targeting Workshop

♥ March 16, 2004 Bismarck, ND
For more information, please visit www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/events.shtm.

NDCTM – Spring Math Conference

♥ March 26-27, 2004 Grand Forks, ND
For more information, please visit www.sendit.nodak.edu/ndctm/spring2004.information.html.

NDRA – Spring Conference

♥ April 15-17, 2004 Minot, ND
For more information, please visit <http://ndreadon.utma.com/intro.htm>.

Title I Program Improvement Workshop

♥ April 19, 2004 Bismarck, ND
For more information, please visit www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/events.shtm.

Title I Spring Meetings

♥ May 3, 2004 Fargo, ND
♥ May 6, 2004 Mandan, ND
More information will be posted online at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/events.shtm.

49th Annual International Reading Association (IRA) Convention

♥ May 2-6, 2004 Reno, NV
For more information, please visit www.reading.org/2004.

Title I and Special Education Collaborative Math Summer Institute

♥ June 28-29, 2004 Mandan, ND
For more information, please visit www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/events.shtm.

Title I and Special Education Collaborative Reading Summer Institute

♥ July 14-15, 2004 Bismarck, ND
For more information, please visit www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/events.shtm.